



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL

**City Council Chambers
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, California 93555**

**March 20, 2013
5:30 pm**

This meeting was recorded and will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk for a certain period of time from date of approval by City Council. Meetings are recorded for the purpose of preparation of minutes.

CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mayor Daniel O. Clark; Mayor Pro-Tem Jason Patin; Vice-Mayor Marshall 'Chip' Holloway; Council Members James Sanders and Lori Acton

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Dennis Speer; City Clerk Rachel J. Ford; City; City Attorney Keith Lemieux and other staff

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion To Approve Agenda (As Amended) Made By Council Member Acton , Second By Council Member Holloway . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

- None

CLOSED SESSION

GC54956.9 (a) Conference with Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation – Public Disclosure of Potential Litigant Would Prejudice the City of Ridgecrest.

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

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CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Closed Session
 - Undisclosed Potential Litigation – Received Report – No Reportable Action.
- Other
 - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Wiknich

- Asked Council to poll the community about budget spending priorities for next budget year.

Dave Matthews

- Announced first day of spring.
- Asked about the official ground breaking for Super Wal-Mart

Jerry Taylor

- Commented about more transparency on closed session titles.
- Asked Council to vote to go into closed session.

Mike Neel

- Provided copy of statement to Council pertaining to DUI checkpoints. *(copy available in the Clerk's office)*
 - Jason Patin – clarified that funds

Barbara Auld

- Spoke on the City Organization meeting and commended Rachelle McQuiston for information provided.
- Announced that Rose Vargas passed away and recounted her many accomplishments in Ridgecrest.
- Asked Community to support Inyokern Airport application for Unmanned Aircraft
- Announced Ray Price to attend June 14 fair and asked for community support for the Fair.
- Asked community to support the 50th anniversary of incorporation and the NAWS 70th anniversary

Nadine Steichen

- Spoke on T-shirt she created supporting Parks & Recreation.
- Spoke on Quality of Life and Preliminary Budget meetings attended.
- Asked Community to join supporting Parks & Recreation.

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Dan Brady

- Presented Southern California Edison street light sale process to Council.
- Asked for direction from the City and indicated a cost estimate can be completed for \$10,000.
- Offered to arrange a meeting between City staff and Southern California Edison.

Dennis Speer

- Suggested SCE staff meets with staff to review the proposal.

Closed public comment at 6:29 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Employee of the Month Recognition** Clark

City Council presented Virginia Johnson with a Certificate of Appreciation for Employee of the Month.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. **Approve A Resolution Authorizing The City Of Ridgecrest To Enter Into Program Supplement Agreement No. 029-N With The State Of California, Department Of Transportation, Under Master Agreement No. 09-5385R And Authorizing The Interim City Manager To Sign The Agreement(s) That Provide For The Preliminary Engineering On South Sunland Drive From East Bowman Road To East Upjohn Avenue** Speer
3. **Quarterly Investment Report** McQuiston
4. **Approve A Resolution Authorizing Proclamations And Establishing The Date And Time Of Presentation** Ford
5. **Approve Draft Minutes Of The Regular Council Meeting Dated March 6, 2013** Ford
6. **Approve Draft Minutes Of The Special Council Meeting Dated March 11, 2013** Ford

ITEMS PULLED

Item 2 pulled by Dave Matthews

Motion to Approve items 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Consent Calendar Made by Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

Item 2 discussion

Dave Matthews

- Asked why City was paving Sunland rather than East Upjohn.

Dennis Speer

- Explained the type of funds received and specific purposes allowed.
- Indicated the original projects was to be part of the Wal-Mart project and by using these funds will be able to save Tax Allocation Bond funds.

Motion To Approve Item 2 Made By Council Member Sanders, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

7. Executive Summary and Discussion of Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget Projections **McQuiston**

Rachelle McQuiston

- Provided staff report with handouts for the public. *(Copy available in the City Clerk's office)*
- Reviewed City loans and long-term debt amortization schedule. *(copy will be provided to City Clerk for public requests)*
- Reviewed current projections of year end 2013.

Chip Holloway

- Explained the Ridgecrest Redevelopment Agency which is no longer an obligation for City providing City meets the requirements of the Department of Finance.

Rachelle McQuiston

- Confirmed that the \$40 million showing on the books is not a general fund obligation.

Chip Holloway

- Asked about interest earned on the Tax Allocation Bonds.

Public Comment opened at 6:49 p.m.

Jerry Taylor

- Asked about Benz payoff.
- Referenced balancing of current budget.
- Commented on challenge to return the Measure 'L' breakdown to fund street projects.
- Reminded Council that at some time in future will have to borrow for wastewater.

Howard Auld

- County gives back money community pays for wastewater. Asked if those funds are being deposited into the wastewater enterprise fund.
 - Dennis Speer - Clarified that operations comes out of those funds so the growth of the fund is not 100% of what is collected.
- Asked for clarification of the bonds.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – reviewed the bonds

Mike Neel

- Referenced City Organization meeting loan from wastewater for streets fund.
 - Dennis Speer – short-term loan for general fund borrowing from gas tax to balance last year's budget. Will be shown in the FY2013-14 budget.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – confirmed short-term debt and this presentation is General Fund only. Next month report will cover other funds.

Paul Vanderwerf

- Commented on adjustments previously made to close the budget and whether these adjustments are included in the presentation.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – explained the adopted and adjusted budget columns.

Closed Public Comment At 6:59 p.m.

Dan Clark

- Reviewed projections for Measure 'L' funding.
- Referenced public comments as being comfortable with this year's expenditures to Public Safety and requests to split more for Streets next year.
- Encouraged Council to poll constituents on the topic for budget hearings.

Dennis Speer

- Commented about funds already cut from Street budget.

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Lori Acton

- Asked for clarification of funds received and how many more months will be received.
- Commented that appears most of funds are going to Police.
- Understanding that percentage was to be going to streets but changed because of backfilling police.
- Asked for clarity on where the fund stands now and whether it will be short based on diverting funds previously to Police from Streets.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – clarified receipts and projected receipts along with changes in allocations from original budget.

Chip Holloway

- Referenced Pavement Management Study and goal in spite of Measure 'L' is get as close to \$15 million TAB funds plus \$1.5 million City funds thereafter to follow the PMS plan.

Jim Sanders

- Commented on projected revenue and expenditures.
- Expectation of any funds left at the end of the year become a general fund reserve and stay that way.
- Does not want to get to a position of having to borrow short-term from wastewater to close the end of year budget.

Jason Patin

- Wants a general fund reserve of a minimum of \$1 million.
- Stop borrowing from enterprise funds and use reserve to pay unfunded shortfalls.

Lori Acton

- Asked Rachelle to briefly review the TOT revenues.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – reviewed TOT and anticipated impact of Sequestration and reduced tourism travel. Definite drop was visible in March which will not impact City until April or May. Watching TOT closely for assumptions on the FY2012-13 budget projections. Measure 'L' receipts are only 7 months, anticipate increase for next year and as more data is received will be able to adjust projections accordingly.

Jim Sanders

- Goal is to attempt to pay of wastewater loan earlier if possible.

Dan Clark

- Asked Council to receive feedback on Measure 'L' goals from public.

Chip Holloway

- Commented on recommendation of 65%-35% split, did not anticipate the need to shift funds to Police.

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Jerry Taylor

- Commented on revenue projections and weighted average.
- Reality of sequestration and fewer visitors so City needs to be more conservative in the revenue projections.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – clarified that other information was incorporated to both revenues and expenditures. Exemplified sales tax arriving 3 months late so projections are good for this year but need to exercise extreme caution for next year's budget. Appreciates any data available that can assist with projections and will refine expenditures with department heads as the year closes.
- Reiterated question of how we will go about gaining the knowledge. Commented on Sequestration and potential of impact being greater than anticipated.

Tom Wiknich

- Questioned Measure 'L' receipts. Clarified a total of 9 months of revenue for this fiscal year.
- Thanked Mr. Clark for getting public input on how Measure 'L' funding will be spent.
- Encouraged Council to add this item to a public poll pertaining to the next budget.

Closed Discussion at 7:26 p.m.

Matthew Alexander

- Commented on Phase II of Senior Housing Project to be considered by Planning Commission next Tuesday.

Dan Clark

- Extended support for Senior Housing and thanked staff for their work on the project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

City Organization

Members: Dan Clark, Jim Sanders

Meeting: 3rd Tuesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference Room

Next Meeting: April 16, 2013

Jim Sanders

- Reviewed year end budget projections and Measure 'L'.
- Announced next meeting and agenda items.

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Community Development Committee

Members: Jason Patin, Chip Holloway
Meetings: 1st Thursday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: April 4, 2013

Jason Patin

- did not meet

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Dan Clark, Jason Patin
Meeting: 2nd Wednesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M., Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: April 10, 2013

Jason Patin

- did not meet

Quality Of Life

Members: Chip Holloway, Lori Acton
Meeting: 2nd Thursday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Kerr-McGee Center
Next Meeting: April 11, 2013 (Dark in June, July, December, and January)

Chip Holloway

- did not meet

Activate Community Talents And Interventions For Optimal Neighborhoods Task Force (ACTION)

Members: Jim Sanders, Jason Patin
Meetings: 2nd Monday Of Odd Numbered Months At 4:00 P.M., Kerr-McGee Center
Next Meeting: April 8, 2013

Jason Patin

- did not meet

Veterans Advisory Committee

Members: Jason Patin, Lori Acton
Meetings: Every Monday as needed at 6:00 p.m., Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: March 25, 2013

Lori Acton

- discussion of upcoming changes to meeting dates
- good participation

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Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

Members: Jason Patin, Chip Holloway
Meetings: 1st Wednesday Of The Month, 8:00 A.M.
Next Meeting: April 3, 2013 at location to be announced

Chip Holloway

- did not meet

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

- None

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dennis Speer

- Extended appreciation with budget process and finance director.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Lori Acton

- Announced cake and cookies for birthdays.
- Wished Jason Patin happy birthday
- Asked Dennis Speer for 5-year roads project list
- Next agenda – replace personnel board member

Jim Sanders

- no comment

Chip Holloway

- Asked to have meeting adjourned in memory of Rose Vargas
- Reviewed accomplishments Rose Vargas did for our community.
- Grateful to have had opportunity to say goodbye.
- Encouraged someone to retrieve her archives of Ridgecrest.

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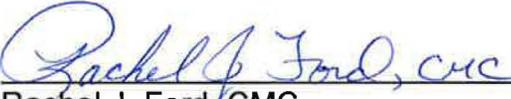
Jason Patin

- Spoke on the suggestion of conducting a public poll about budget and measure 'I'
- Clarified Wal-Mart status, still moving forward. Have approached businesses to sign contract to be a part of the Wal-Mart complex.
- Referenced use of tax funds for streets.
- Thanked Mrs. Steichen for her support of Parks and Recreation
- Mentioned Unmanned Aircraft program and wants to provide letter of support for the Inyokern Airport.
- Happy Easter and apologize for any offense or hurt caused in the course of duties as a council member.

Dan Clark

- Commented on lost legacy of Rose Vargas and mentioned a book entitled 'My Grandfather's Blessing'. Memorial service scheduled for next month and invited community to participate.
- Attended United Way recognition of participants. Encouraged public to donate to the United Way organization.
- Commented on Council Member Acton's song and asked Council to sing happy birthday to Council Member Acton.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:43pm



Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk